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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes current activities of the United Nations (UN) system that relate to individuals with mental handicaps, and suggests ways to influence UN organizations to support the needs of people disabled in this way. The report describes the work of the UN Economic and Social Council; the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); the UN Children's Fund; the International Labour Organisation; the World Health Organisation; and the UN Development Programme. A list of disability issues and initiatives that have been considered by the UN is provided. Representation of international nongovernmental organizations at UN meetings is noted. Eight areas are targeted as the recommended focus of organizations working to ensure that the distinctive needs of people with mental handicaps and their families are fully included in national and regional discussions and decisions. The eight areas include such efforts as lobbying of government representatives, developing National Coordinating Committees on Disability, contacting regional UN offices, using UNESCO resources, and developing policy on vocational training and employment. An appendix provides a list of key international organizations. (JDD)

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Making the Most of the United Nations

A paper
prepared by
Prof. Peter Mittler

1992

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International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap

Making the Most of the United Nations

a paper prepared
at the request of the ILSMH Council

by

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1992

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Contents

	Page
Introduction	5
What is the UN system ?	6
The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	7
Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA)	
Disabled Persons Unit (DPU)	
Examples of UN initiatives	9
Target n° 1: World Programme of Action Concerning the Disabled	11
Target n° 2: Lobbying your government representatives	13
Target n° 3: National Coordinating Committees on Handicap	14
Target n° 4: International Year of the Family (1994)	15
Representation of the League and other INGOs at the UN	16
The UN at regional level: UN Economic and Social Commissions	18
Target n° 5: Contact your regional UN office	19
UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	20
Target n° 6: Using UNESCO resources	22
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	23

Target n° 7: Working for children 25

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 26

Target n° 8: Vocational training and employment 27

World Health Organisation (WHO) 28
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 30
Other UN organisations 31
Working with other international disability NGOs 32
Conclusion 33

Appendix 1: Addresses of key international organisations 34
Appendix 2: Signatories to the ILO Convention 44

Introduction

To most of us, the United Nations seems very remote from our day to day lives. Its main concern seems to be with international politics and above all with the prevention of armed conflict. But it also has an immense social and humanitarian programme from which we could benefit. This document therefore summarises some of the current activities of the UN system and suggests ways in which we could influence these organisations to support our work for people with mental handicap. It complements the *International Directory of Mental Retardation Resources*, prepared by Dr Rosemary Dybwad (3rd edition, published by ILSMH in 1989).

What is the UN system ?

It may help to think of the UN system as a family of organisations with the same common aims of fostering better international relations in various fields. At the apex of the system stands the UN itself with its headquarters in New York.

In 1971, the General Assembly of the UN adopted the **Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons**, taken almost word for word from the Declaration promulgated by the League at its world congress in Jerusalem in 1968.

This was the first of the major promulgations on disability matters published by the UN. It was followed by the **Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons** (1975) and the International Labour Organisation's **Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons** (1983). (A Convention is legally binding on governments which ratify it; a Declaration is not). There are also a number of general Declarations, such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (1971) and the recent **Convention on the Rights of the Child** (1989) which contains an important clause on children with disabilities.

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA)

Disabled Persons Unit (DPU)

UN Office in Vienna, International Centre, Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

The social and economic work of the UN is the responsibility of ECOSOC, with whom the League has official consultative status. Most of the work of ECOSOC which is of interest to the League is located in Vienna, in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (Director, Mr Henryk Sokalski). The responsibilities for this Centre include elderly persons, family and gender issues and drug dependence, as well as disability.

The **Disabled Persons Unit** is part of the CSDHA of the UN Office in Vienna (UNOV). The Unit is the focal point on disability related issues within the UN system. The Unit is the successor of the IYDP secretariat which was entrusted with the organisation and celebration of the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons. Annual ad hoc inter-agency meetings are held each year in Vienna. Currently headed by M. Mamadou Barry, a good friend of the League, the Unit now deals with the following:

a) monitoring the implementation of the World Programme of Action and the Decade of the Disabled at national, regional and international levels through continuous contacts with governments, UN agencies, NGOs and National Committees;

b) action–orientated research and studies on emerging trends and issues: a series of manuals and guidelines have been prepared — eg accessibility, information, equalisation of opportunities legislation, human resources development, organisations of disabled persons, etc.;

c) information exchange, including the preparation of the *Disabled Persons Bulletin* and the establishment of an information clearing house;

d) technical cooperation activities, advisory services to governments and management of the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade of Disabled Persons. ILSMH obtained a grant from this fund to run the Asian Family Workshop in Hong Kong in 1982.

Also in the Vienna International Centre is the **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Promotion of the UN Decade for Disabled Persons**, Mr Hans Hoegh who has done a great deal to support the work of the League and to ensure that the needs of people with mental handicap are taken into account in discussions on disability matters. ILSMH is officially appointed as adviser on mental handicap to Mr Hoegh and through him to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The UN in Vienna was mainly responsible for the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981 and later for the Decade of the Disabled (1983-1992). It also produced the **World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons** which is still the agreed basis for action and development. It undertakes regular reviews and monitoring of progress made in implementing the aims of the Decade of Disabled Persons and is now actively planning on activities to the year 2000 and beyond.

Examples of UN initiatives

Here are some examples of issues and initiatives which have been debated in recent years and which are likely to recur. The League will try to keep you informed of future discussions and debates.

* The **UN Decade of Disabled Persons** finishes at the end of 1992. What has the Decade achieved ? What can be done by the UN to ensure that the needs of disabled people receive a much higher degree of priority in future ?

* The most recent strategic concept of the UN disability programme is **A Society for All by 2010**. This states that society needs to adapt to the needs of disabled people, rather than people adapting to the needs of society. This in turn suggests that much more account needs to be taken of the needs of disabled people in different regions and localities.

* The UN is committed to supporting the development of voluntary organisations run by disabled people themselves, rather than by professionals, families or volunteers. For this reason, it has encouraged the development of Disabled People's International and ensured that DPI was involved in discussions on disability issues.

* To what extent are people with mental handicap involved in self advocacy groups at local, national and international levels?

* Should there be an international convention to make it illegal to discriminate against disabled people ?

* What can the UN do about the abuse of the human rights of people with mental handicap in certain countries ?

* Last year, the UN set up a Working Group to elaborate Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Disabled Persons. The League's President, Victor Wahlstrom is a member of this study group.

There is a role here for our member societies in ensuring that the distinctive needs of people with mental handicap and their families are fully included in any discussions and decisions which take place at national and regional level.

Target n° 1

World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

The World Programme of Action was produced by the UN in 1983, with the help of disability organisations, including the League. It contains a suggested programme of action and targets for action in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalisation of opportunities. The programme has been generally welcomed and is still regarded as a useful basis for national and international action.

* Have you read the World Programme of Action ? If not, you can send for it from the Disabled Persons Unit, ONUV, International Centre, Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. We will in any case try to send a further copy to each member society in 1992.

* Is the WPA relevant to the needs of your country or your organisation ?

* Have you drawn it to the attention of your government representatives and asked them about their own plans to implement at least some of the suggestions in that programme ?

* Do you ever see the *Disabled Persons Bulletin* which is published regularly in several different languages by the Disabled Persons Unit in the Vienna International Centre ? If not, you could request that you be

put on the mailing list.

* The Secretary General of the UN has asked all member states to carry out a review of their achievements for disabled persons during the Decade. An earlier mid-term review was also requested in 1987. Does your organisation have an opportunity to study these responses or to contribute to your government's report on the situation of disabled people in your country ?

Target n° 2

Lobbying your government representatives

The political activities of the General Assembly and the Security Council are well known but the General Assembly also debates other matters, including those concerned with disability.

The General Assembly is no more than the voice of its government representatives. If national delegates do not contribute to discussions on disability matters, the UN has no mandate and no money to take any action whatever.

The General Assembly has decided to devote two days (4 meetings) in the plenary session to the UN Decade of Disabled Persons. The tentative dates for these meetings is October 12 and 13th 1992.

* Make sure that your government representatives attending the New York General Assembly are fully briefed to participate in the discussions on disability issues on October 12th and 13th 1992 and at subsequent debates on disability issues which take place during most General Assemblies.

* Ensure that your government delegates are briefed on mental handicap issues at other UN General Assembly meetings which take place in October every year.

Target n° 3

National Coordinating Committees on Handicap

The UN has recommended that every member state should revive or strengthen its National Coordinating Committees on Disability. These committees which brought together representatives of all the governmental and voluntary groups, contributed greatly to the success of the International Year of Disabled Persons and could ensure new developments in the medium and long term.

* Does your country have a National Coordinating Group on Disability ?

* If not, check whether your government has received the UN Guidelines on the Role and Function of National Disability Committees, produced by the Disabled Persons Unit in the United Nations Office in Vienna in 1990. If not, see if you can obtain a copy from the DPU and send it direct to the appropriate government department or to the office of the Head of State.

* If there is a National Coordinating Committee (or a proposal for one) how are the interests of people with mental handicap represented ?

* If there is no coordinating committee, are there plans to set one up, as recommended by the UN ?

Target n° 4

International Year of the Family (1994)

* Did you know that the UN has designated 1994 as the International Year of the Family (IYF) ?

* Have you a copy of the Development Plan for IYF ? If not, you can obtain one direct from IYF Secretariat, ONUV, International Centre, Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.

* Ask your own government department about their plans for IYF.

* Do these plans include consideration of the needs of families who have a relative with mental handicap or other form of disability ? If not, why not write to the chairperson offering advice and evidence on this subject ?

Representation of the League and other INGOs at the UN

A prime aim of the League's Committee on International Organisations is to ensure that mental handicap issues are always included whenever there are policy discussions on disability or other relevant social issues. This means that we must always try to be represented at relevant meetings by members of the Committee living reasonably near. Where this is not possible, the Committee tries to prepare a short document and ensures that it is considered by those who are present. We are thus dependent on volunteers, since the Committee has no budget.

Many meetings are called by the UN organisations, some of which are concerned with broad issues but where the presence of a participant with knowledge of disability could be effective. Unfortunately, it is simply not possible for the League to find people able to attend many of these meetings. However, some meetings are so important that every effort is made to ensure a League presence.

International non–governmental organisations (INGOs) in the field of disability are invited to attend the annual inter–agency meetings of all the UN organisations working in the field of disability — eg WHO, UNESCO, ILO, UNICEF and many others. These take place in Vienna in December.

The international NGOs work through an umbrella organisation known as the **International Council on Disability (ICOD).** The League holds the Vice–Presidency of ICOD, the President being Sheik Abdullah al Ghanim, President of the World Blind Union. Also represented on the Executive are the World Federation of the Deaf, Rehabilitation International and several other organisations. Disabled Peoples' International also attend meetings of ICOD and are invited to the UN inter–

agency meetings.

During the same week, Hans Hoegh, the Special Representative of the Secretary General, also holds a meeting of all INGOs; in addition, the ICOD executive meets in Vienna and there is a General Assembly for all ICOD members every second year. These meetings provide a forum for informal as well as formal discussions between all the INGOs and the various UN agencies concerned with disability.

The UN at regional level

UN Economic and Social Commissions

A major task for the League and its members societies is to make contact with the relevant regional offices of the UN and its specialised agencies.

The UN has a number of regional offices, known as Economic and Social Commissions. Some of these are more active in the field of disability than others (see Appendix 1 for addresses and contact names).

For example, the **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**, has established a small technical unit in Amman to coordinate regional activities on disability issues and to promote and disseminate appropriate technologies throughout the region.

A specialist officer has been appointed to coordinate ECSWA activities — Ms Kozue Kay Nagata, formerly of the International Labour Organisation, who has attended ILSMH conferences and who worked with the League during the ILO–ARI training workshop in Nairobi.

Target n° 5

Contact your regional UN office

* Why not write to your regional UN office, asking them about their plans for the World Programme of Action for Disabled Persons for the remaining years of the Decade of Disabled Persons and their plans for a Society for All initiative by the year 2010 ?

* Ask if these plans include people with mental handicap and their families and how they might benefit ?

* Send them a copy of your own plans, tell them about approaches you have made to your own authorities and the difficulties you are having in securing better provision for people with mental handicap.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

7 Place de Fontenoy, F-75007 Paris, France
Contact person: Ms Lena Saleh

UNESCO has consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment to high quality education for people with mental handicap of all ages, from birth to old age. The League is particularly fortunate to have a good friend at the head of its special education activities — Ms Lena Saleh, a former Council Member and Vice-President of the League.

The League has consultative status with UNESCO, plays a leading part in helping to advise UNESCO on its medium and long term strategies and is generally represented at key meetings.

Under UNESCO's new director, Dr Federico Mayor, the special education budget has more than doubled. Many publications and slide tape presentations have been produced to help parents and teachers, especially in developing countries. These include a series of pamphlets known as *Guides to Special Education*, one of which was commissioned from the League — *Working Together: Guidelines for Collaboration between Professionals and Parents of Children and Young People with Disabilities*, by Peter Mittler, Helle Mittler and Helen McConachie (UNESCO, Guides to Special Education N° 2, 1986). This was written with the help of the Leagues's member societies who contributed examples of good practice and ways in which obstacles to collaboration could be overcome.

UNESCO is committed to improving the **training of teachers in all schools** so that they can become more aware of ways in which the needs of children with special

needs can be met, particularly in ordinary schools. To this end, UNESCO is developing a set of materials to support teachers in ordinary schools in increasing their awareness, knowledge and skills in working with children with special educational needs, in partnership with their families. The project involves eight countries — Canada, Chile, India, Jordan, Kenya, Malta, Spain and Zimbabwe. Details of the project and of the names of the national coordinating institutions and resource persons can be obtained from Lena Saleh at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters.

Most countries in the world have a UNESCO Commission, usually located through the Ministry of Education. There are also a number of regional offices (see Appendix 1 for addresses).

The UNESCO Co–Action Programme has already greatly benefited not only the League's member societies but many other organisations working for people with mental handicap in developing countries. Co–Action supports small scale, low cost projects intended to be of direct benefit to voluntary or private organisations providing direct services. Co–Action is prepared to consider requests for help without the usual UN insistence on going through the government.

The League administers the Co–Action Fund in collaboration with UNESCO, whenever the requests are concerned with mental handicap. The many requests for support which we have supported include books and educational materials and equipment, bicycles, the building of a school roof, ramps for wheelchairs, sports equipment, typewriters, blankets. The amounts given rarely amount to more than US$ 2,000 and are generally between $ 500 and $ 1,000. But these sums can make a great deal of difference at local level.

Further particulars from Co–Action Project at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris or from the League.

Target n° 6

Using UNESCO resources

* Are there small-scale projects or books or educational materials which UNESCO Co-Action might fund or support? If so, write direct to UNESCO, with a copy to the League, to keep us informed.

* UNESCO has a large publication list, send for this from Ms Lena Saleh at the Paris headquarters. Some of these publications are free.

* Contact your national UNESCO commission and enquire about their work in the field of disability in general and mental handicap in particular. They may also have some of the relevant publications or help you to obtain them – eg the Guides to Special Education.

* UNESCO has many national reports on special education in individual countries. There may be one on your country that you can obtain and on which you might wish to comment.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

866 United Nations Plaza, 6th floor, New York, NY 10017, USA
Contact person: Ms Gulbadan Habibi

Address of regional offices: see Appendix 1
List of all national offices and committees available from ILSMH Secretariat

UNICEF's work with disabled children throughout the world focuses on early identification and early intervention; full social and educational integration of children with disabilities into the community and support to families. UNICEF's priorities for all children include prevention of nutritional deficiencies and the improvement of facilities for pregnant and lactating women; these measures will help to reduce the prevalence of mental handicap and other disabilities. More recently, UNICEF has worked with children who are the victims of wars, armed conflicts and civil disturbances including refugees and orphaned children.

UNICEF played a major part in drafting and negotiating the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** (1989) which specifically refers to the needs and rights of children with disabilities and their families.

UNICEF also organised a major world conference on children in Jomtien, Thailand, resulting in the **Education for All** initiative, designed to introduce compulsory education for all children.

A world summit conference for leaders of 70 countries was organised in New York in October 1990 at the same time as the General Assembly of the UN.

By December 1991, 115 countries had ratified the Convention and a further 31 countries had signed but not yet ratified.

UNICEF has a well developed programme for working with NGOs and has published a booklet summarising this work, *Partnership in Action (1991)*, available from UNICEF headquarters New York or from national or regional offices (addresses in Appendix 1).

Target n° 7

Working for Children

* Has your country signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Children ? If yes, what steps have been taken since then to implement the Convention ? If not, what reasons have been given for not doing so?

* Did your government attend the World Summit on Children ? Has any national action followed ?

* What is your government's attitude to the Education for All initiative ? Does this include the education of all children with disabilities, no matter how severe their disabilities may be ?

* What are the implications for the training of teachers to work with children who are disabled in ordinary schools ?

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

4 Route des Morillons, CH-1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland
Contact persons: Mr Willy Momm and Dr Andreas König

The ILO has a long tradition of interest in the vocational training and employment of people with mental handicap. It cooperates with government, workers' and employers' organisations in 40 countries. The budget for technical cooperation activities has increased tenfold since 1979 and now stands at US$ 7 million. Eastern Europe is currently one of ILO's newer areas of work. ILO has also recently embarked on a special programme to promote interests of disabled women in Eastern and Southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland and Lesotho.

The League has collaborated with ILO's programme of staff training by helping to plan and run a three week workshop for two representatives from 12 African countries in December 1986. The workshop aim was to develop training materials for staff working with adults with mental handicap. This workshop was organised in partnership with ILO and the African Rehabilitation Institute based in Zimbabwe, with some financial support from the European Community and the Arab Gulf Fund.

Nineteen training modules were produced by the workshop. These have since been field tested in several African countries and refined in later workshops. The final version of the modules is about to be published by the African Rehabilitation Institute, with some financial assistance from our German member society, Lebenshilfe (African Rehabilitation Institute, PO Box 4056, Harare, Zimbabwe).

Target n° 8

Vocational Training and Employment

In 1983, ILO adopted a **Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons**. This Convention stipulates that a national policy on vocational rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons should be formulated, implemented and periodically reviewed; vocational rehabilitation measures are to be made available to all categories of disabled persons and employment opportunities in the open labour market are to be promoted. The Convention is binding on ratifying governments. Appendix 2 provides a list of the countries that have ratified the Convention to the end of 1991.

* *Has your country ratified this Convention ? Why not ask the government to define their policy towards this Convention ?*

* *Have you considered writing to the Ministry of Labour or other appropriate government department, enquiring about their policy for the vocational training and employment of people with mental handicap ?*

* *If you live in an English speaking country in Africa, enquire about the publication and subsequent use of the Vocational Training Modules published by the African Rehabilitation Institute.*

World Health Organisation (WHO)

20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Several divisions of WHO have an interest in mental handicap — eg Mental Health (Dr N. Sartorius and Dr J. Orley), Community Based Rehabilitation (Dr E. Pupulin and Dr A Goerdt), Maternal and Child Health.

Publications

The League advises WHO in partnership with its sister organisation, the International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency, working together as the Joint Commission on International Aspects of Mental Retardation. The chairmanship of the Joint Commission alternates between the League and IASSMD.

In 1985, WHO published *Mental Retardation: Meeting the Challenge* (WHO Offset Publication N° 86), a review prepared by the Joint Commission at the request of WHO of current trends and possibilities for the integration of people with mental handicap in their local communities.

WHO is about to publish a short guide to *Assessment of Children with Mental Handicap*, also prepared by the Joint Commission.

They also wish to commission a document on people with mental handicap and associated behaviour difficulties.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

The League strongly supports WHO initiatives in Community Based Rehabilitation. CBR depends on the maximum use of local people, including families of people with mental handicap, in working for the acceptance and integration of people with mental handicap into their local communities and in helping people with mental handicap to acquire the skills to make a contribution to their local community. The MORE committee is making a study of CBR and ways in which it can work more effectively to benefit people with mental handicap and their families.

WHO has published detailed guidelines on CBR, *Training in the Community for People with Disabilities*, by Helander, Mendis, Nelson and Goerdt (WHO Geneva 1989), now published in several languages (eg Arabic, French, Persian, Portuguese and Chinese) and available either from Geneva, from a regional WHO office or through national Ministries of Health. These can be a resource for families and voluntary organisations.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland
fax: +(41-22) 7987524
Contact persons: Mr A Rotval, Ms C. Davis, Dr E Helander

UNDP funds technical cooperation programmes; IMPACT has initiated major low-cost prevention programmes in many countries. In the field of mental handicap, current priorities are on the training of midwives and traditional birth attendants in helping a newborn baby to breathe and also in combating the effects of iodine deficiency in drinking water.

One of the aims of UNDP is to secure the collaboration of all the relevant UN agencies and NGOs in projects for disabled persons at national and regional levels. Dr Einar Helander, who played a major role in the development of community based rehabilitation at WHO, now works for UNDP in Africa and has helped to stimulate multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral projects — eg in Ghana.

Other UN organisations

The work of many other UN organisations is relevant to people with disabilities in general and mental handicap in particular. There is space only to list some of them; further details can be obtained in the first instance from the League, from the Disabled Persons Unit at the Vienna International Centre or direct from the organisations themselves.

Appendix 1 provides the addresses and summarises the main objectives of some of these organisations.

Working with other international disability NGOs

The League strongly encourages its member societies to work with other voluntary organisations in the field of disability. People with different disabilities have much in common, as do their families and those who work with both. Unfortunately, such organisations sometimes do not communicate or cooperate and may even see one another as competitors for scarce resources or for government support. Experience suggests that when different voluntary organisation get together to represent the interests and needs of disabled people as a whole, governments and grant awarding agencies are more likely to listen, rather than take refuge behind the conflicting advice which may be given if these organisations work alone.

Reference has already been made to the International Council on Disability, an umbrella organisation for over 60 international organisations in the field of disability.

The largest organisations all have national and local members. If you cannot trace these, you could write to the international headquarters to ask for names of local contacts. If there is no local society, it may be possible to join forces with people concerned with other disability groups and to form a society representing all disabilities at a later stage. Sub–groups specialising in specific disabilities may be established but still remain within the framework of a single common organisation.

Addresses of some of the larger international NGOs in the disability field are listed in Appendix 1.

Conclusion

This summary has been prepared because the League is convinced that member societies should know what are the main aims and methods of working of the United Nations and other international organisations in the field of disability.

This account reflects only a small proportion of the work of these organisations. But they have much in common and will benefit if they join together and collaborate in achieving their aims.

If our member societies make themselves known to these agencies at international, national and local level, the agencies themselves will improve their knowledge about the needs of people with mental handicap and their families and arrive at a better understanding of how they can be met by clear policies and collaboration with the voluntary organisations.

Appendix 1

Addresses of key international organisations

1. United Nations Regional Offices

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UN Liaison Office, Box 950629, Amman, JORDAN
Mr Akil Akil and Ms Kozue Kay Nagata

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Box 3001, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
Ms Daria Tesha

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
United Nations Building, Bangkok 2, THAILAND

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Casilla 179D, Santiago, CHILE

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, SWITZERLAND
Mr John Kennerly

2. UNESCO Regional Offices

Regional Office for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean Region (OREALC)
Calle Enrique Delpiano, Casilla 3187, Santiago, CHILE
Fax: +(56-2) 491875
Mr J.C. Tedesco, Director

Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA)
BP 3311, 12 Avenue Roume, Dakar, SENEGAL
Fax: +(221) 238393
Mr T Keller, Director

Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS)
Al–Shmaisani, Box 2270, Wadi Sagra, Amman, JORDAN
Fax: +(962-6) 682183

Principal Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific (PROAP)
Prakanong Post Office, Box 967, Bangkok 10110, THAILAND
Fax: +(66-2) 3910866
Mr H. Ahmed, Director

UNESCO Office in Harare.
Box 435, Highlands, Harare, ZIMBABWE
Fax: +(263-4) 729253
Mr J. Visser

UNESCO Office in Nairobi
Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa (ROSTA)
Box 30592, Nairobi, KENYA
Fax: +(254) 2215991
Mr P. Lissouba

3. UNICEF Regional Offices

Note that UNICEF also has national offices or committees in most countries. Address available from ILSMH.

Colombia
Edificio Caja Social de Ahorros, Avenida 72, N° 10, Piso 11/12, Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia
Fax: +(571) 3101486

Ivory Coast
BP 433, Abidjan 04, Ivory Coast
Fax: +(225) 227607

Jordan
Box 811721, Amman, Jordan
Fax: +(962-6) 640049

Kenya
Box 44145, Nairobi, Kenya
Fax: +(254-2) 215584

Nepal
Box 1187, UN Building Pulchok, Kathmandu, Nepal
Fax: +(977-1) 523200

Thailand
Box 2-154, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Fax: +(66-2) 2803563

4. WHO Regional Offices and Regional Advisers for Mental Health

Regional Office for Africa
WHO, Box 6, Brazzaville, CONGO
Tel: +(242-83) 386064
Fax: +(242-83) 1879

Dr I. Levav — Regional Office of the Americas
WHO, 525 23rd Street NW, Washington DC 20037, USA
Tel: +(1-202) 8613200
Fax: +(1-202) 2235971

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
WHO, Box 1517, Alexandria 21511, EGYPT
Tel: +(203-48) 30096 or 30097
Fax: +(203-48) 38916

Dr J.G. Sampaio Faria — Regional Office for Europe
WHO, 8 Scherfigsvej, DK-2100 Copenhagen, DENMARK
Tel: +(45-39) 171717
Fax: +(45-31) 181120

Dr H. Sell — Regional Office for South-East Asia
World Health House, Indraprastha Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Road, New Delhi 110001, INDIA
Tel: +(91-11) 3317804 or 3317823
Fax: +(91-11) 3318607 or 3327972

Dr N. Shinfuku — Regional Office for the Western Pacific
WHO, Box 2932, 1099 Manila, PHILLIPINES
Tel: +(632) 5218421
Fax: +(632) 5211036

5. ILO Regional Offices

Mr W. Momm, Chief of Rehabilitation
4 Route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland
Tel: +(41-22) 7996111
Fax: +(41-22) 7988685

ILO Caribbean Office
Box 1201, Port of Spain, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Tel: +(628) 1453 or 1454

ILO Office in Lusaka
Box 32181, ZA-10101 Lusaka, ZAMBIA
Tel: +(260-1) 228071 or 228072

Bureau de l'OIT à Abidjan,
01 BP 3960, Abidjan 01, IVORY COAST
Tel: +(225) 212639 or 221350

ILO Branch Office in Moscow
Perrovka 15, Apt 23, 103031 Moscow, RUSSIA
Tel: +(7-095) 8255025

Bureau de l'OIT à Yaounde
BP 13, Yaounde, CAMEROUN
Tel: +(237-22) 5044 or 5181

ILO Office in Lagos
Box 2331, Lagos, NIGERIA
Tel: +(234-1) 686177 or 686178

ILO Office in Beijing
2 Sanlitun Dongije, Beijing, CHINA
Tel: +(86-1) 5325091 or 5325094

Bureau de l'OIT à Antananarivo
BP 583, 101 Antananarivo, MADAGASCAR
Tel: +(261) 21907 or 23490

Bureau de l'OIT à Kinshasa
BP 7248, Kinshasa 1, ZAIRE
Tel: +(243-12) 33424 or 33425

ILO Office in Addis Ababa
Box 2788, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
Tel: +(251-1) 511395 or 514313

ILO Office in San Jose
AP 10170, San Jose 1000, COSTA RICA
Tel: +(506) 537622, 537667, or 539375

ILO Office in Suva
Box 14500, Suva, FIJI
Tel: +(679) 313856 or 313146

ILO Office in Bonn
Hohenzollern Strasse 21, D-5300 Bonn 2, GERMANY
Tel: +(49-228) 362322 or 363988

BIT à Rome
Via Panisperna 28, Via Aldobrandini, I-00184 Roma, ITALY
Tel: +(39-6) 6784334 or 6792197

ILO Tokyo
Nippon Press Centre Building 2-1-5°, Uchisawai–cho 2 Chome, Chiyoda–ku, Tokyo 100, JAPAN
Tel: +(81-3) 5089217

ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
Box 1759, 10501 Bangkok, THAILAND
Tel: +(66-2) 829161 or 829171

BIT à Alger
BP 226, 16000 Alger–Gare, ALGERIA
Tel: +(213-2) 745085 or 745086

ILO Office in Warsaw
Dept of Int'l Cooperation, Ministry of Labour, Wages and Social Affairs,
Ul. Nowagrodzka 1/3, PL-00513 Warsaw, POLAND
Tel: +(48-2) 214019

BIT Madrid
Alberto Aguilera 15, Dpdo 1, E-28015 Madrid, SPAIN
Tel: +(34-1) 2482066 or 2484575

ILO Washington
1828 L. Street NW, Suite 801, Washington DC 20086, USA
Tel: +(1-202) 6537552

Le Conseiller Supérieur
Secrétariat Fédéral du Travail, de la Santé, des Vétérans et de la Politique Sociale
Ed. Avnoj a 104, YU-11070 Novi Beograd, YUGOSLAVIA
Tel: +(38-11) 198013

ILO Jakarta
Box 1075, Jakarta, 10010 INDONESIA
Tel: +(62-21) 321308 or 325865

ILO Buenos Aires
Avda de Mayo 654, piso 10, 1084 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Tel: +(54-1) 3340156 or 3340157

ILO Dar es Salaam
Box 9212, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA
Tel: +(255-51) 30161

6. Other UN Organisations

Centre for Human Rights
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Mr Ovsiouk and Mr L. Despouy
Working on human rights issues from a mental health viewpoint

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN
Via del Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy
Mr Larry Jacobson
Concerned with public education and prevention of malnutrition and deficiency diseases. Strong focus on disability issues.

Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Ms Guenet Cuebre–Christos
Active in work with disabled refugees in many countries

UN Agency for Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
West Bank, Jerusalem, Israel
Mr Shariq Ben Raza and Mr Colin Garland
A range of projects to increase employment opportunities and income generation among disabled refugees in the West Bank and Gaza

UN Statistical Office,
UN, New York, NY 10017, USA
Ms Mary Chamie
Comprehensive disability statistics on most countries

UN Department of Public Information
UN, New York, NY 10017, USA
Mr Bill Haas
Works on attitude change and public information. Has made a video called Breaking Barriers(English, French and Spanish) on achievements of disabled persons throughout the world. Also video on work of the UN in general(UN in Action)

7. International NGOs

Disability Awareness in Action (formerly Global Project)
Room 109, 11 Belgrave Road, London SWIV 1RB, England.
Ms Rachel Hurst

Disabled People's International
Mr Henry Enns, Secretary
101-7 Evergreen, Winnipeg, R3L 2T3, Canada
Mr Joshua Malinga, Chair
Box 2247, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

European Association for Special Education
Secretariat: Box 79, Nordstrandhogda, N-1112 Oslo, Norway
President: Mr Klaus Wenz, Reutlinger Strasse 31, D-7000 Stuttgart, Germany

European Association of the ILSMH
248 Avenue Louise, B 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Dr T. Mutters, President
Tel: +(32-2) 6486969
Fax: +(32-2) 6472969

International Association for the Scientific Study of Mental Deficiency
Dr Kenneth Day, Secretary
Northgate Hospital, Morpeth, England
Dr Terry Dolan (President 1992-1996)
Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53705, USA

International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap
248 Avenue Louise, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +(32-2) 6486180
Fax: +(32-2) 6472969

Joint Commission on International Aspects of Mental Retardation
Secretariat: 248 Avenue Louise, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

Appendix 1

7. International NGOs (continued)

Cerebral Palsy Overseas
37 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9FB, England

European Association for Special Education
Mrs. Anne Jackson, Secretary General
35 St David's Court, Cassel Ave, Clontarf, Dublin 3, Ireland

International Association Autism Europe
Mrs. Mies Hoffman, Secretary General
4 Rue Emile Léger, B-6320 Villers-la-Ville, Belgium

International Cerebral Palsy Society
Mrs. Anita Loring, Secretary General
5a Netherall Gardens, London NW3 5RN, England

Mobility International
Mr. Anthony Lumley, Secretary General
228 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JX, England

World Federation for Mental Health
1021 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2971, USA
Mrs. Josée Van Remoortel, Vice-President ERC/WFMH
110 Rue Franklin, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

This is only a selection of main international NGOs working in the field of disability.

International Bureau of Epilepsy
Box 21, NL-22100 Aahemstede, Netherlands
Mr Joop Loeber

International Council on Disability
Sheik Abdullah al Ghanim, Chair, Box 3465, Riyadh, 11471 Saudi Arabia
Ms Susan Hammerman, Secretary, 25 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010, USA

International Council on Social Welfare
Koestlergasse 1/29, A-1060 Vienna, Austria

International Sports Federation for Persons with Mental Handicap
Koninginneracht 10, NL-2514 AL The Hague, Netherlands

Rehabilitation International,
25 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010, USA
Ms Susan Hammerman

Special Olympics International
Joseph Kennedy Foundation, 1350 New York Ave NW, # 500, Washington, DC 20005, USA

World Blind Union
Sr Pedro Zurita, Secretary General
Ortega y Gasse 18, 06 Madrid, Spain
Mr Duncan Watson, Chair
RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London WIN BAA, England

World Federation of the Deaf
Ilkantie 4, Box 65, SF-00401 Helsinki, Finland
Ms Liisa Kauppinen, Secretary

World Veterans Federation
16 Rue Hannekin, F-75116 Paris, France
M. Serge Wourgaft, Secretary

1 December 1992

Making the Most of the United Nations

A page has unfortunately been left out of this publication.

Please insert the attached sheet after page 43.

We hope that you will forgive this inconvenience.

Thank you.

With the compliments

of the

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF SOCIETIES
FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL HANDICAP

Secretariat:

248 Avenue Louise, Box 17
B-1050 Brussels (Belgium)
tel: + (32-2) 6476180
fax: + (32-2) 6472969

Appendix 2

Countries which had ratified the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons by 31 December 1991

Argentina	—	Australia
Brazil	—	Burkina Faso
China	—	Colombia
Costa Rica	—	Cyprus
Czechoslovakia	—	Denmark
Ecuador	—	Egypt
El Salvador	—	Ethiopia
Finland	—	France
Germany	—	Greece
Hungary	—	Iceland
Ireland	—	Malawi
Malta	—	Netherlands
Norway	—	Paraguay
Peru	—	Philippines
San Marino	—	Spain
Sweden	—	Switzerland
Tunisia	—	Uganda
Uruguay	—	USSR
Yemen Republic	—	Yugoslavia

Zambia

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The International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap (ILSMH)

Founded in 1960 by representatives of societies of parents of mentally handicapped persons, friends and professionals in the field of mental retardation, the ILSMH is devoted to defending the rights and interests of mentally handicapped persons without regard to nationality, race or religion. The League addresses problems related to mental retardation: among them are prevention, diagnosis and early treatment, education and training, economic security, social welfare and integration, guardianship, interfamilial relations, due process of law and public education.

The main objectives of the League are:

- to determine, with the help of persons with mental handicap, their families and specialists, what is required for these persons to live as close to normal lives as possible;
- to disseminate helpful information to and promote contact between member societies;
- to encourage the creation of new societies;
- to initiate and develop contacts with international organisations, governmental and non-governmental, in order to speak on behalf of member societies;
- to promulgate the basic principles set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons.

To achieve these objectives, the League, with the help of its member societies, organizes international symposia of experts, regional conferences and world congresses. The League publishes the results of these efforts, an international newsletter translated in four languages, and various pamphlets on topics of general interest. The League has consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, WHO, ECOSOC and the Council of Europe, and has official relations with the European Communities and other international organizations interested in handicapped persons.

Making the Most of the United Nations

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International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap
Ligue Internationale des Associations pour les Personnes Handicapées Mentales
Liga Internacional de Asociaciones en favor de las Personas con Deficiencia Mental
Internationale Liga von Vereinigungen für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung

248 Avenue Louise, Box 17
B-1050 Brussels (Belgium)

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48